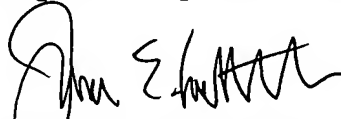


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment eliminates multiple dependencies of claims 9, 13 and 17.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: May 23, 2006

JEL/ejw

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